

Stages and Storytimes—Part 1

Age	Some Things They Do (Chosen for relevance to storytime)	What It Means for Storytimes (What do YOU think?)
Birth to 6 months (non-mobile infants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn head to familiar voices (0-3) • See 8 – 12" in front of them (0-3) • Smile, cry, gurgle • Imitate facial expressions • Turn head to parents' voice • Look back and forth between two objects • Push down on legs when on firm surface • Listen to and enjoy rhythm and rhyme of language • Pay attention to music • Try but not always successful at holding/manipulating objects • Hear sounds more easily when language is slowed down, as with songs • What they don't see does not exist • Prefer patterns to solid colors • Need sharp contrast in brightness between design and background (black or bold color on white or light background) • Look at faces longer than patterns • Listen to you longer if you speak in "parentese". (Parentese is speaking in a higher pitch, speaking more slowly and elongating vowels, speaking clearly and repeating what you say). • Bounce when standing, supported by adult (4-6) • Smile/laugh in response to noise or action (4-6) • Watch play of other children (4-6) • Look intently at bright pictures in books (4-6) 	

Age	Some Things They Do (Chosen for relevance to storytime)	What It Means for Storytimes (What do YOU think?)
7 – 12 months (mobile infants)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit alone briefly without support (7-9) • Pull to standing position (7-9) • Clap hands (7-9) • Babble, vocalize, first word(s) • Begin to understand things exist even when not seen • Look for objects only partially visible • Look longer at pictures with bold, bright colors • Point to pictures in book • Name some objects • Need repetition to understand • Need gestures to understand verbal directions • Interested in the familiar • Like to move • Learning pincer grasp (thumb & index finger) • Listen to and enjoy rhythm and rhyme of language • Imitate facial expressions and actions • Imitate sounds including animal sounds • Move body to music • Play peek-a-boo games • Look for toy they saw you hide • Throw, roll, catch a soft ball • May stand alone momentarily • Can discern object qualities (hard, soft, rough, smooth) • Need actual objects to better understand meanings of words • Recognize familiar faces and characters • Begin to connect objects and events • Point to body parts • Find security in routines • Imitate use of objects (brush, etc.) • Clap hands on command (10-12) • Sit up (10-12) • Plays pat-a-cake (10-12) • Respond to one-step directions (10-12) • Point to object you name (10-12) • Mark on paper with crayons/markers (10-12) 	

Age	Some Things They Do (Chosen for relevance to storytime)	What It Means for Storytimes (What do YOU think?)
13 – 24 months toddlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have short attention spans • Like to move around • Demonstrate use of daily items (how to drink from a cup) • Imitate what you do, tone of voice • Say animal sounds • Show independence; say “No” • Follow one-step directions • Get frustrated easily • Say one or two words • Respond to “what” questions • Need repetition to understand • Need gestures to understand verbal directions • Listen to stories; like favorites repeated • Need 5 – 12 seconds to respond to what adult says • Imitate facial expressions/actions • Hum familiar songs • Start and stop when walking • Strong sense of I, me, mine • Imitate their parent/caregiver • Move rhythmically to music • Learn through repetition • Find security in the familiar • Understand from hands-on experience • Recognize words for and may name body parts • Express feelings vocally • Working on controlling feelings • Learn words for their feelings • Match shapes • Learn some sign language • Draw/scribble • Hold book independently • Use objects/toys for pretend play • Do simple puzzles • Imitate circular, vertical and horizontal strokes (19-23) • Learning/know shapes (19-23) • Follow two-step directions (19-23) • Ask about story (19-23) • Sing songs with adults (19-23) • Whisper (19-23) 	

Age	Some Things They Do (Chosen for relevance to storytime)	What It Means for Storytimes (What do YOU think?)
2 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be aware of and care for others • Notice how people are alike and different • Can learn to talk about feelings • Are afraid of dark, monsters • Play with other children, sharing sometimes • May be physically active while you read books, sometimes to show excitement • Developing attention span so they can listen to books, sometimes only for a short time • Can relate best to books with pictures on each page depicting the action in the story, books of individual songs, books with simple stories about familiar situations, factual books on topics that interest them • Recite familiar phrases they hear repeated in a book, song or fingerplay • Can respond to "What" questions: "What is this?" or "What do you see on this page?" • Like to ask questions • Imitate voice • Know motions to familiar fingerplays • Move to beat of music and words • Pretend to write • Draw pictures • Understand and use some prepositions • Know or are learning colors • Can match objects by color, shape, size • Are developing a sense of humor • Fluctuate between independence and needing adult assurance/support • Need time to process what is being said or questions that are being asked • Understand better when gestures are used with words • Feel more secure with predictable routines • Walk in circle • Dance to music, follow simple directions • Run, jump, gallop, walk on tiptoe, balance on one foot • Need reassurance to try new things • Can respond with short sentences you can understand • Understand what is said in the book even if cannot say it • Listen to you saying a few sentences about the pictures • Retell simple, familiar story • Can point to pictures of common objects described by use (what you eat with) • Have favorite books they like to hear over and over again • Participate in pretend play of familiar situations • Substitute one object for another in play • Like to learn from books about topics that interest them • Recognize that symbols/signs/logos have meaning 	

Age	Some Things They Do (Chosen for relevance to storytime)	What It Means for Storytimes (What do YOU think?)
3 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know first and last name • Recite nursery rhymes • Sing songs, follow you a or two lines at a time at first • Fill in rhyming words to familiar songs • Notice parts of words by clapping or moving • Use 3 – 5 word sentences • Respond to three commands • Listen to simple story • Tell/retell a simple story in some detail • Recall elements from stories • Talk about future events • Learn new words and use them, not always correctly • Make up stories from pictures in book • Name pictures of objects/items • Curious about world around them; eager for info • Sense of humor—when the unexpected occurs • Name colors • Sort by shape and color • Sort objects by category (animal, food) • Tell how common objects are used • Use simple verbal analogies (Daddy is a man; Mommy is a ____) • Relate personal experiences • Follow sequenced directions • Ask questions: who, what, why, how many • Understand in front of, behind and other spatial relationship words • Ask questions for information • Describe attributes of objects • Observe, describe and question • Find security in familiar routines • Play pretend games (play house, tea party) • Need demonstration to understand what to do or how to make something • Wait patiently for short time • Tell how they feel • Solve conflict using words rather than hitting • Make up stories while playing • Understand concept of number • Count five objects • Draw human face • Gain an awareness of others • Show empathy • Play cooperatively, some sharing • Use object to represent something else (block is car) • Play group games with simple rules • Use vertical, horizontal and circular motions when drawing • Copy drawing a cross • Hold crayon between first two fingers and thumb • Draw people and objects • Recognize some letters • Form simple shapes out of clay • Hop on one foot • Walk on tiptoe for 3 seconds • Build bridge with 3 blocks 	

Age	Some Things They Do (Chosen for relevance to storytime)	What It Means for Storytimes (What do YOU think?)
4-5 year olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play with words (rhymes, repetitions, nonsense words) • Create own rhyming words • Ask/give meanings to new words • Sing songs/says rhymes of 30 words or more • Imitate adult language • Use 5 - 8 word sentences • Retell stories with essential elements in logical sequence • Tell familiar stories without picture cues • Answer content questions about story • Ask questions • Have sense of time: past, present, future • Describe past and future events • Describe and sort objects by shape, size and color in more than one category • Describe own activities • Use quantity terms • Copy own name • Know spatial concepts such as between, above, below, top, bottom • Use possessive ("cat's, boy's) • Identify first, middle, last • Talk about feelings • Wait for turn • Proud of making projects • Want real adult things (hammer, etc.) • Enjoy humor both of situation and of language • Cut circle with scissors • Gallop, leading with one foot • Tell what will happen next • Print first name • Humor with silliness of words, nonsense words • Recognize some words • Understand words of comparison (tallest, thinnest, same, more) • Count 20 objects • Classify objects • Draw stick figures • Name and recognize letters • Draw objects without models • Know opposites (heavy/light, loud/soft) • Talk in complete and complex sentences. • Understand seasons of the year • Like competitive games • Explain rules of game to others • Fine movements in hand • Copy drawing a square • Color within the lines • Believe thinking bad thoughts can make them happen • Build pyramid of six blocks • Understand rules of fair play • Plays competitive games but finds losing hard 	